

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01647 101242Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /059 W  
-----069210 101636Z /72

R 101040Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0047  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USUN NEW YORK 810

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1647

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: COLOMBO PLO REPRESENTATIVE STATES NO HALT IN PLO  
MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL, NO ABANDONMENT OF  
ULTIMATE GOAL FOR "WHOLE" PALESTINIAN STATE

1. FOLLOWING IS SOLE PRESS ACCOUNT OF SUBJECT SPEECH TO APPEAR  
IN COLOMBO FROM PAGE 5, APRIL 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE "CEYLON DAILY  
NEWS" UNDER HEAD "WEST HAS CONSPIRED TO KEEP UN TROOPS IN  
LEBANON."

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN  
SOUTHERN LEBANON WOULD NOT PREVENT THE PALESTINIANS FROM CARRY-  
ING OUT THEIR MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) IN SRI LANKA,  
MR. MOHAMED ABU-AL-A'DI TOLD THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS  
ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON THURSDAY.

ABU AL A'DU WAS SPEAKING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF TALKS ORGANIZED  
BY THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS THE  
DEVELOPING SITUATION THERE.

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HE SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE WAS  
PART OF A WESTERN CONSPIRACY.

BUT THE LEADER OF THE PLO YASSER ARAFAT HAD AGREED TO  
COOPERATE WITH THE UN TROOPS AND EXTEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT BE-  
CAUSE THE PALESTINIANS WANT THE ISRAELIS OUT OF SOUTHERN  
LEBANON.

TO ACHIEVE THAT END THE PLO WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE UN

FOCES BUT THEIR PRESENCE WOULD NOT HALT PALESTINIANS' MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL.

HE SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE PLO WAS THAT IT WANTED THE WHOLE OF PALESTINE FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE. BUT INITIALLY THEY WOULD SETTLE FOR A SMALLER SATATE OF PALESTINE WITHOUT ABANDONING THE ULTIMATE GOAL.

THE PLO DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE RECENT PALESTINIAN "MILITARY OPERATIONS" AGAINST ISRAEL WAS NOT CARRIED OUT BY SEA AS CALIMED BY THE ISRAELIS BUT WAS ENTIRELY A LAND OPERATION.

IT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE PALESTINIANS TO HURT OR OPERATE AGAINST CIVILIANS.

ASKED HOW THE PALESTINIANS COULD JUSTIFY THE HIJACKING OF COMMERICAL AIRCRAFT WITH CIVILIAN PASSENGERS, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE PLO WAS AGAINST SUCH ACTIONS.

HOWEVER THERE WERE PALESTINIAN GROUPS WHICH HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH HIJACKING WHICH THE PLO DID NOT APPROVE.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. FIRSTLY SOME ARABS AND ISRAELIS HAD INITIATED NEGOTIATIONS BUT THE PALESTINIANS WHO WERE THE KEY TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

SECONDLY ISRAEL WAS STRENGTHENING ITSELF MILITARILY AND ITS INVASION OF SOURTHERN LEBANON SHOWED THAT ISRAEL HAS EXPANSIONIST INTENTIONS.

THE THIRD FACTOR IN THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD CONTINUE THE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, AND NO PEACE WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT GRANTING THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS  
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OF THE PALESTINIANS.

MR. CLARENCE FERNANDO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDED. END TEXT.  
WRIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PALESTINIANS, SPEECHES, LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY PLANS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COLOMBO PLO REPRESENTATIVE STATES NO HALT IN PLO MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL, NO ABANDONMENT OF ULTIMATE GOAL FOR "WHOLE" PALESTINIAN STATE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, MOPS, CE, LE, IS, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

